

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: AAPSO SPONSORS CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS, PALESTINE AND LEBANON

REF: CAIRO 17104

1. UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (AAPSO), A TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH CYPRUS OPENED IN ATHENS AT THE PANTIOS SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE ON DECEMBER 10. THE SESSION ON CYPRUS WAS FOLLOWED BY A SECOND CONFERENCE, LIKEWISE UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF AAPSO, DEVOTED TO THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND THE LEBANESE ISSUE. THE CYPRUS SESSION WAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 100 DELEGATES FROM SOME 50 COUNTRIES OF AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE AND AMERICA. REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE GREEK POLITICAL PARTIES MADE THEIR APPEARANCE. AMONG THE PROMINENT WERE ANDREAS PAPANDREOU OF THE LEFTIST PASOK, BABIS DRAKOPOULOS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR AND ILIAS ILIOU OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC LEFT. LESS HERALDED DEPUTY GEORGE DIAKIPOULOS OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY WAS LIKEWISE PRESENT. STATEMENTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN LEADERS WERE READ, INCLUDING A MESSAGE FROM EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT (REFTEL). CHAIRMAN OF THE CYPRUS SOCIALIST PARTY, VASSOS

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LYSSARIDES, ALSO PERSONALLY ADDRESSED THE AUDIENCE.

2. THE FINAL RESOLUTION OF CYPRUS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE CONTAINED A MYRIAD OF PROPSALS IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. AMONG OTHER ITEMS, IT CONDEMNED EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CYPRUS QUESTION OUTSIDE OF THE UN FRAMEWORK AND LAMBASTED "NATOIST CIRCLES" WHICH SEEK TO CONVERT AN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS TO THEIR OWN MILITARY USE. IT ATTACKED TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE AND RELATED U.S. POSITIONS. THE RESOLUTION CALLED UPON ALL MEMBER STATES TO FORM NATIONAL COMMITTEES IN SUPPORT OF THE CYPRIOT PEOPLE AND TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOR OF THE UN DECISIONS. IT FURTHER DEMANDED THE END OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND URGED ALL GOVERNMENTS TO LEVY PRESSURE UPON TURKEY TO ABIDE BY THE UN DECISIONS CONCERNING CYPRUS. ECONOMIC MEASURES WERE RECOMMENDED AS WELL, SUCH AS A BLOCKADE AGAINST PRODUCTS ORIGINATING FROM THE OCCUPIED AREAS OF CYPRUS AND THE GRANTING OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS OUTSIDE OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS UNDER "IMPERIALISTIC INFLUENCE".

3. FOLLOWING THE SESSION DEVOTED TO PALESTINE AND LEBANON, THE CONFERENCE RESOLVED THAT THE CONFLICT IN LEBANON IS "AN IMPERIALIST AND ZIONIST PLOT". IT ALSO CALLED FOR MEASURES TO ENSURE THE PALESTINEAN REVOLUTION AND AFFIRMED THE PLO AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINEAN PEOPLE.

4. COMMENT: WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THE CYPRUS QUESTION IS GRADUALLY SLIPPING FROM BEING THE FOCAL POINT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION IN MAINLAND GREECE. HOWEVER, AS LONG AS AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION PROVES ILLUSIVE, CYPRUS REMAINS A POTENTIALLY VERY VOLITILE DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE. THUS, THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF ALL SHADINGS FELT COMPELLED TO LEND THEIR PRESENCE TO THE AAPSO PROCEEDING, AT THE SAME TIME SHOWING A PANHELLENIC INCLINATION TO COURT "NON-ALIGNED" SUPPORT OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION IN WHATEVER FORM IT MIGHT COME.

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